

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, HO

SUBJECT: RUSSIAN OFFER OF ASSISTANCE TO HONDURAS
IN EXCAVATION OF MAYAN RUINS

1. UPON RETURN FROM BRIEF HOSPITALIZATION IN PANAMA
ACCEPTED INVITATION OF GOH TO ACCOMPANY SENIOR VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND ENTOURAGE ON
BRIEF TOUR OF COPAN RUINS VIA CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ'
AIRCRAFT. DURING TOUR MAYOR OF COPAN INFORMED ME
THAT DELEGATION FROM USSR HAD CONTACTED GOH ABOUT
POSSIBILITIES OF BRINGING TEAMS OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO
ASSIST IN FURTHER EXCAVATIONS OF ANCIENT MAYAN RUINS.

2. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH NEW GOH CHIEF OF ARCHAEOLOGY,
DR. J. ADAN CUEVA, I WAS TOLD THAT GOH NOT INTERESTED
IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS FOR
CONTINUED MAINTENANCE EVEN THOUGH IT IS ESTIMATED
THAT LARGEST MAJORITY OF MAYAN RUINS STILL UNDER COVER.
THUS, THE MAYOR'S INFORMATION CAME AS GREAT
SURPRISE TO ME.

3. AFTER TOUR I SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH FOMIN BATRES
WHO WOULD ONLY VERIFY FACT THAT INTITAL, EXPLORATORY
INQUIRIES HAD BEEN MADE. HE MADE IT QUITE
CLEAR THAT NO COMMITMENTS HAD BEEN MADE AND
THAT FOR MANY REASONS HE WOULD PREFER THIS
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TYPE OF ASSISTANCE TO COME FROM UNIVERSITIES IN

THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, PARTICULARLY THE U.S.
SANCHEZ

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